Industrialists' request for dropping of wealth tax

310. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some delegation of leading industrialists of the country have requested for dropping proposal for wealth tax;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on these requests;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They have requested that amendment proposed in the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1991 regarding valuation of unquoted shares in investment companies be dropped and the existing provisions in this regard be retained.

(c) to (e) The matter is under consideration.

Raids on Oswal Group of Industries

311. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of raids regarding Income Tax, excise and customs etc. that have been made on the office and residential premises of Oswal Group of Industries by different departments; and

(b) what are the details of the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Malaria cases in Rajasthan

312. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-spraying of insecticides valued at Rs. 298.12 lakhs by the State Medical and Health Department (Malaria), there is big increase in malaria positive cases in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) As per reports received from the Government of Rajasthan, there has been decrease in the number of malaria cases during 1990 as compared to that in 1988 and 1989 as under:—

Year	No. of malaria cases reported
1988	1,04,109
1989	1,12,316
1990	85,864

The spray coverage achieved during the last three years is given below:—

Spray coverage (%age)

Type of Insecticides used	1988		1989		1990	
	Population	Rooms	Population	Rooms	Population	Rooms
DDT	75·0	60·0	72·0	58·0	60·0	50·0
BHC	70·0	55·0	60·0	50·0	60·0	56·0

(c) Government has proposed to undertake the following measures to control malaria in Rajasthan:—

— Identification of problem areas in the States for selection and judicious use of insecticides in order to get cost effective results i.e. lowering of morbidity and prevention of mortality.

— State Government has been emphasized to fill up PHC workers posts to improve case detection and treatment.

— Augmentation of laboratory services for diagnosis of malaria.

— Extensive health education to ensure community participation for implementation of malaria control measures.

Ragging of a student at IIT, Kharagpur

313. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a 17 year old student Shri Sandeep Sinha Roy was badly injured due to ragging at IIT, Kharagpur during this month;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to stop completely ragging in the educational institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Government has already issued instructions to stop ragging completely in the educational institutions in the country. Whereas, this practice is reprehensible, it is for the universities and college authorities and the students themselves to ensure that 'ragging' does not take place.

Statement

Sandeep Sinha Roy, a first year student of the Institute was found in a sitting position in semi-conscious state with bruises on his right ankel and bleeding mouth on the ground floor of his hall of residence on 3.8.1991 early morning. He was immediately moved to the Institute Hospital by students and wardens and was given extensive medical examination and treatment. Although he was recovering well, his parents asked transfer to Kharagpur Railway Hospital. On 9.8.1991 the Railway doctors reported to the Institute Sr. Medical Officer that his general condition is stable and there is no fracture as per the X-Ray plates. There is minimal loseness of five teeth which have been attended to. The general impression is that the patient is progressing well. The boy has now been discharged from the Hospital. After considerable investigation the disciplinary committee of the Senate could not determine how it happened and who is responsible. But inquiry is continuing. The police alleges that Sandeep has been ragged and has been made to walk on the balcony railing of the second floor from which he has fallen. On 4.8.1991 the Institute filed FIR with the Local Police. Another student of the Institute filed FIR on 5.8.1991 stating that it is an attempt to murder. Subsequently police has interrogated students and has taken eight students in custody. These students have been denied bail in Midnapore Court and Calcutta High Court. The Police has not yet chargesheeted the students in custody.

Loan taken from abroad by Government

314. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what was the total amount of loan taken from abroad by Government from December 1989 till January 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The amount of loan contracted by the Government from December, 1989 to January, 1991 was Rs. 10728 crores.